Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Is the Government in a position to say whether there has been a single day when the verandah was unoccupied?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—I have no information.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to increase the number of the beds?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—Certainly, when funds permit.

Alteration in the Rules issued under the Kuries Regulation.

319. **Mr. A. Eachara Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the circumstances under which the original rule 21 of the rules framed under the Kuries Regulation came to be altered;

(b) what is the objection to authorise the Superintendent of Registration to compound generally the offences under the Kuries Regulation;

(c) is the Government aware that, as the rules stand at present, the parties are put to much inconvenience as they have to move the Government to authorise the Superintendent to compound every minor offence under the Regulation?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—(a) Government considered it desirable that the authority to compound offences under the Kuries Regulation should be subjected to Government sanction.

(b) Please see answer to (a).

(c) No inconvenience to the public has so far been reported.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Is there any other departmental head who is authorised to compound offences without Government sanction?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Yes; I understand that the Diwan Peishkar is authorised to compound certain cases and perhaps the Excise Commissioner also.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—In those cases is Government sanction necessary?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Not in all cases.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—What was the particular occasion for changing the rule in regard to the Superintendent of Registration?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—The Government has decided these things on their own merits. In this particular case considering all the relevant points, Government thought it would be more advisable to limit the authority of the Superintendent of Registration to compound offences under this Kuri Regulation.

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Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Will it not unnecessarily increase the duties of the Head of the Executive?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—It may slightly increase, but Government thought that it would not appreciably increase his duties.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Has there been any instance of the misuse of power by the head of the department?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I want notice.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—What is the danger in giving that power to the Superintendent of Registration?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Government do not think there is any danger but they thought that the power of compounding offences must vest with the Government. They can give such delegation of powers with qualified or unqualified conditions. They thought that this was better in the circumstances.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Are the Government aware of the practice in Travancore so far as this question is concerned?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—No.

Improvements of main roads in Mattancheri Municipality.

320. Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) what amount has been spent by the Mattancheri Municipality towards improvements of main roads and extension of same during last year;

(b) (1) what are the materials used for the construction of main roads at Mattancheri; (2) have the Government satisfied that the materials now used are satisfactory investments from the point of view of the using public;

(c) have the Government received any representations either from the Chairman of the Municipality or the public or the press complaining about the present condition of the roads; if so, what action has so far been taken to improve them; if not, what is the reason?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a) Rs. 3,161—9—0.

(b) (1) Granite metal, gravel and laterite metal.

(2) No complaint about the inadequacy of these materials has come to the notice of the Darbar.

(c) On account of the heavy traffic in the main roads of the Town, the Mattancheri Chairman requested Government to increase the contribution amount for the maintenance of these roads and also to widen the Palluruthy road at Government cost. For want of funds the requests could not be granted.

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